

We claim:

1. A method of treating a prion disease in a mammal, comprising administering a prion protein denaturing effective amount of a chaotropic agent to the mammal.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said agent is a guanidine salt, sodium iodide, potassium iodide, urea or combinations thereof.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said agent is guanidine hydrochloride.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the dosage is between about 5 mg and about 40 mg per kilogram per day.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein said agent is potassium iodide.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the dosage is between 130 and 260 mg per kilogram per day.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein said agent is urea.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the dosage is between 1 and 2 grams per kilogram per day.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said prion disease is scrapie, transmissible mink encephalopathy, chronic wasting disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, spongiform encephalopathy of exotic ruminants, feline spongiform encephalopathy, kuru, Creutzfeldt- Jakob disease (CJD), fatal familial insomnia, Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker syndrome or new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD).

102  
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10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said mammal is human, cow, sheep, mink, or cat.

R 102

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein said prion disease is bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

102

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said mammal is a cow.

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13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said prion disease is CJD or nvCJD.

R 102

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said mammal is human.

R 102

15. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises inducing hyperthermia in said mammal during the course of treatment.

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16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said hyperthermia is produced through applying microwave energy.

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17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said hyperthermia is induced by administering pyrogenic material to the mammal.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein said pyrogenic material is a mixture of inactivated bacterial toxins.